

**VILLAGE OF HINSDALE
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

Tuesday, November 12, 2013
Memorial Hall – Memorial Building

Chairman Kluchenek called the meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Memorial Hall board room.

Members Present: Chairman Kluchenek, Commissioners Banke, Baker, George, Keane, Owens and Mulligan

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Gina Hassett, Director of Parks and Recreation
Linda Copp, Secretary

Commissioner Banke moved approval of the October 15, 2013 Park and Recreation Commission meeting minutes with the correction is spelling for Commissioner Baker's name. Commissioner Owens seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Revenue Expense Report

Ms. Hassett explained the report. Field rental fields are up due to travel teams using Veeck Park. There will still be some more revenue coming from soccer rentals. KLM picnic rentals were also up for the year.

Ms. Hassett explained that the recreation programs services are over which is contributed to the new recreation supervisor position. The salary was about a 15% increase to the position since the position is more of a middle range experience position.

Ms. Hassett stated that some of the repairs of the platform tennis courts are included in the expenses. Cultural arts revenue is down but when revenue declines, so do the expenses.

Ms. Hassett stated that some items that are budgeted are being moved into the next fiscal year. The Veeck Park walking path is still in the discussion stage. Ms. Hassett suggested that crushed limestone might be used for the path instead and then there wouldn't be an issue with the soccer fields. Ms. Hassett stated that there could be a maintenance issue with the crushed limestone. The plan will be presented to ACA in December.

Commissioner Banke asked if Burns sidewalk can be done first since it is in such bad condition. Ms. Hassett explained that the bid package will include all of the sidewalks needed being done at the same time.

Commissioner Baker asked about revenue being down on recreation services. Ms. Hassett explained that some programs are no longer offered which affects the revenues.

Commissioner Mulligan asked if the new led lights at the paddle courts cost the village anything. Ms. Hassett explained that there was a grant for those.

Recreation Program Report

Ms. Hassett stated that she will be submitting the paperwork for reimbursement for the grant at KLM. Laurie Lane residents in Burr Ridge have some flooding concerns and staff has been meeting with them regarding the ponding in their yards. They are asking for the berm to be higher. Commissioner Mulligan asked if it will help the drainage. Ms. Hassett explained that the berm was not designed to run to the creek, just hold it back. The cross country course had to be changed due to the wet conditions. The course is a little shorter due to the change.

Ms. Hassett explained that the turf has come in well. The capital projects included resurfacing the pool parking lot and KLM. The underlayment at the pool parking lot is soft and it is suggested to store the snow at Veeck instead.

Athletics fields are finishing and staff is working on a new sign to notify people that want to use the fields for pickup games. Staff will have to open the signs when the fields are closed. The goal is the protection of the fields. Ms. Hassett stated that if there are signs posted saying the fields are closed, then the police can ticket anyone that is using the fields.

The Fall Festival was moved to the middle school and the event may be moved there permanently. Touch a truck may be added to the event. Polar Express cannot be called that next year due to licensing issues with Warner Brothers so it will be called something else. The trips will continue with a different name.

Mr. Hassett reported that the Winter/spring brochure is in the final stages and will be out the week of December 9. Platform tennis season is underway and there continues to be repairs made as needed.

Ms. Hassett explained that the five year capital year was discussed. Staff drafts the plan and the Trustees make the final decision. Most of them are all maintenance, nothing is added. Chairman Kluchenek asked what the role is of the Commission regarding the capital plan. Ms. Hassett stated that feedback is welcomed, but the Trustees make the finance decisions. The village board doesn't want any new items to the plan unless there is really a reason for it. Ms. Hassett stated that the fire suppression system at the bath house is something that will need to be replaced at the pool and members get no benefit from that.

Chairman Kluchenek stated that he thinks that the Commission should have some input. Commissioner Banke stated that we are subject to the results but have no actual role in the budget process. Ms. Hassett stated that feedback can be given to the board.

Chairman Kluchenek stated that recommendations from the Commission should be advanced to the Finance Commission. Ms. Hassett stated that there are items that have already been cut. Commissioner Owens commented that she is approached on a regular basis asking why we don't have certain things. Commissioner Banke mentioned that Parks and Rec is the only department that affects the community because of all the parks and has an impact on the children.

Ms. Hassett stated that the other Committees are made up of Board Members and Trustees and they directly vote on the budget. Chairman Kluchenek stated that there are no opportunities to allocate resources and that is the Commissions responsibility. Ms. Hassett will find out if a Commissioner can attend the December meeting.

Ms. Hassett stated that the Finance Commission doesn't want any surprises in the budget. Chairman Kluchenek asked Ms. Hassett if the plan will be revised. Ms. Hassett is pretty confident that this is where the budget will stay. Ms. Hassett will ask the Finance Commission Chairman about the Commission request.

Commissioner Baker asked about the issue of the pool parking lot. Ms. Hassett stated that if the surface was on a street, the project would have stopped. It is adequate for a parking lot, but should not have snow stored there because of the use of heavy equipment.

Commissioner Baker commented about the Fall Fest being crowded. The vendors on the first floor operated the games and that made it congested. Ms. Hassett stated that the suggestion is to move the vendors upstairs or move the costume judging.

Commissioner George asked about attendance at the Fall Fest compared to last year. Ms. Hassett stated that the fire and police open house is always fire safety week, so staff will try to stay away from the same weekend.

Old Business

Community Pool Review

Chairman Kluchenek stated that it was helpful to see the prior memo from the Finance Commission on the issue. Ms. Hassett stated that fee adjustments don't have to go to ACA, but are brought so they are aware of them.

Ms. Hassett stated that our daily fees should be similar to Clarendon Hills or we will lose part of that market. Staff is recommending \$8 for residents and \$12 for non-residents, regardless of child or adult. The other issue is the non-resident rates. They are high and staff is suggesting meeting rates comparable to Clarendon Hills. The goal is to monitor the attendance more closely. Staff would like a friendly rate to offer surrounding communities.

Ms. Hassett suggested Western Springs and LaGrange to be offered a friendly rate. Staff met with Clarendon Hills Park District and the super passes will be limited to 100 for next summer. This will result in about \$10,000 shortage in revenue.

Ms. Hassett explained the super pass tiers. Staff suggests making all the rates \$45 for the super passes but stay under the non-resident rate of Clarendon Hills. Chairman Kluchenek asked if the flat rate structure would bring in a revenue gain. Ms. Hassett stated that the net gain would be about \$2000. Commissioner Banke asked if we are losing pricing power because of what Clarendon Hills has done and is it in our best interest to explore being with a different partner. Ms. Hassett stated that Oak Brook has an indoor pool but we don't have a lot to provide them. Burr Ridge has a small homeowners pool and Western Springs is a private club. Commissioner Banke commented on the economic realities for years to come.

The Commission discussed the pros and cons of partnering with Oak Brook. Ms. Hassett stated that people were more interested in Clarendon Hills pool this year because of the new amenities and splash pad. Commissioner Mulligan asked about having a climbing wall or some other amenity by the diving well. Ms. Hassett will have staff check on prices. Chairman Kluchenek commented that you have to compete on product.

Commissioner Owens stated that there are relatively low cost amenities that could be added and the sand area should be eliminated. Ms. Hassett stated that one of the issues was partnering with Clarendon Hills. Ms. Hassett had a meeting with their staff. Our facility is in good shape but maybe we are able to do more swim team rentals to capture more revenue. Commissioner Owens stated that Clarendon Hills has nice amenities but it is always crowded but there is less deck space. There was discussion on what would be involved in a partnership.

Commissioner Owens commented about how Western Springs children are not on swim teams because of limited space and how we could offer them the opportunity to be on a swim team in Hinsdale. Commissioners Owens, George and Mulligan will put together a task force and work with staff to put together a plan.

Chairman Kluchenek commented on the proposed fees and stated he was fine with the \$8 and \$12 fee. The Commissioners all agreed to those fees. Commissioner Owens made a motion to recommend the proposed fees. Commissioner George seconded the fee structure and it will be brought to ACA.

Ms. Hassett stated that the non-resident fees are very complex and the amount of memberships go down every year. Staff has looked at putting an ad in the LaGrange Park brochure. Countryside will subsidize their residents to join any pool. Chairman Kluchenek stated that there needs to be something to market in order to attract other communities. Commissioner George asked if there is a Facebook page for the pool. Ms. Hassett stated that there is but staff is cautious about emailing. Any pool marketing goes to past or current pool members.

Commissioner Banke commented on the revenues vs. expenses. Ms. Hassett stated that revenue was \$321,000 and the net could be \$80,000 for this year. There was discussion about the pool budget. Ms. Hassett stated that the non-resident memberships continue to decline and we can't count on them for steady revenue. The Commission believes they need to make a case to the village board for pool amenities.

Commissioner Mulligan believes that capturing swim team members and lowering the pool membership rate for them is an option. Ms. Hassett stated that there will always be a challenge to capture non-residents.

The Commission will use the pool task force to discuss the non-resident membership fees. Chairman Kluchenek asked Ms. Hassett to let all Commissioners know what the meeting date will be.

New Business

Katherine Legge Memorial Lodge Discussion

Ms. Hassett stated that Jennifer Braun was unable to attend. Ms. Hassett stated that the Finance Commission Chair mentioned that since there was no food or beverage sold there that KLM is doing pretty good. Some of the Commission members commented on how good the lodge looked. Ms. Hassett stated that Ms. Braun has worked hard to retain clients and to get potential new clients. The village manager has asked staff to find the cost to make the 2nd floor ADA compliant. Over the last year staff has kept track of what type of event is being held. A new report will be generated for the last five years data for where the clients are coming from.

Ms. Hassett stated that January and February are quiet and there are quite a few last minute bookings for the early months of the year. Chairman Kluchenek asked what recreation programs are held there. Ms. Hassett stated that those are activity programs like yoga and ballroom dance with no revenue for the lodge.

Chairman Kluchenek asked about Nicole's resignation. Ms. Hassett stated that she resigned due to family issues. The job is posted and has various hours. Nicole was involved with clients and some cold calls from previous clients.

Other Business

Commissioner Banke commented on the Oak Street bridge and the new one that will be in its' place. He wants to know if the old bridge can be brought to KLM and believes it should be preserved. Ms. Hassett stated that the funding requires that the bridge be two lanes and has to be compliant with sight lines so the house there will be demolished.

Ms. Hassett commented that some residents at Brook Park want to install an ice rink. The request will go to ACA for approval. Ms. Hassett commented on the dog that washed through the stream at KLM on Halloween. The dog was recovered and is ok.

Adjournment

Since there was no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Mulligan moved to adjourn. Commissioner Banke seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission meeting was declared adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Copp, Secretary